

25 December 2005

Dear Family and Friends of the 4ID G6 Section:

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays from Baghdad!! Although we are far from home, family and friends, may the spirit and true meaning of Christmas give you strength as we begin our tour here in Iraq. We may not be with you in body, but we are there with you all in spirit and thoughts.

As of last night, all but ten soldiers from the G6 and NETOPS sections have arrived in Iraq. The 10 that remain in Kuwait are due to arrive sometime around the 1st of the year. I will let you all know when we are back together again. For those who remember the stories of living conditions from the division's first deployment, things are MUCH better this time around. Everyone has a room (however none with a view), the DFAC (dining facility) is outstanding (we will have to watch what we eat!), a laundry service, and huge PX that has quite a bit of stuff in it. However, all of our soldiers still look forward to receiving letters and packages filled with goodies from home. So please keep those packages coming!! We can complain about not being home, but we cannot complain at all about our current living conditions.

Everyone here is working hard, meeting with their 3ID counterparts, learning their procedures and techniques in preparation to our taking over control of the network in just over a week's time. MAJ Stewart and the NETOPS section are doing a tremendous job building the division's backbone network. To date, we have already stood up terminals for 2 BCT and AVN Bde as well as swapping out two of the JNN terminals that provide support for and around the Division MAIN CP. Earlier this morning, we installed the VTC link into the division's assemblages which gets us one step closer to taking over control of the network from 3ID.

With each passing day, we are one step closer to returning home to our loved ones. We want to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers as we began this deployment and we ask for your continued support over the coming months.

Sincerely,

LTC Douglas Babb
ACoS, G6, 4ID